

Housewife Dies in Fire

"Twice Weekly Is Twice As Well Read"

PUBLISHED EVERY SUNDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING
—the ONLY Newspaper Published AND PRINTED in Torrance. Established 1914.

10¢

Per Copy

Every Sunday and Thursday
Home Delivered by Carrier
30 Cents Per Month
(Average 9 Issues Per Month)

TORRANCE HERALD

—and Torrance Herald Shoppers Reach 100,000 Buyers

39th Year—No. 45

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1953

PHONE FAirfax 8-4000

13

BOY, 11, DIES IN FALL FROM HORSE

PROBE 'SADISTIC' RITES OF THE ATHLETIC CLUB

Boys Deny Charges By Parent

Board to Investigate Varsity Initiation

Swift action by school officials Tuesday followed charges levied by an irate Torrance parent who claims that his son, during a recent high school initiation, was subjected to atrocities not unlike those performed in war prisoner camps.

He also recommended that Coach Cliff Graybehl, head football coach, who was a witness to the initiation, be replaced, or at least directed to change the entire procedure of the club immediately.

Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, called a press conference Tuesday afternoon inviting reporters to sit in on an investigation of the charges that a high school athlete was made to participate in "savage and sadistic" rituals to become a member of the Varsity Club, a high school letterman's society.

Judge John A. Shidler, president of the Board of Education, said Tuesday night following a meeting of the board, that he would launch a private investigation into the charges today. The parent addressed letters to the newspapers, members of the Board of Education, PTA, presidents and others, protesting the treatment his son received during a shower room initiation of last week. Investigated were eight charges, including:

List Charges

1. Itching powder or similar irritants applied to sensitive areas causing excruciating pain.
2. Adhesive tape applied to body areas.
3. Quick drying black cement applied to skin which caused severe pain when removed.
4. Massive doses of laxative given during school hours resulting in hours of acute diarrhea and distress.
5. Use of marshmallows in a manner such as to make it unprintable to describe.
6. "Tap and feathering" with crankcase oil and sawdust.
7. Faddling until the buttocks became black and blue.
8. Various concoctions of nauseating mixtures forced down throats, and if boy was vomiting, thrown in his face.

Pain and Humiliation
The letter stated, "... they were forced to undergo such painful and humiliating experiences in the shower room that all were vomiting and crying before the evening was over."

Three of the initiates, Jim Moulton, a member of the varsity baseball team, and Jim Babo and Al Rainwater, both members of the track team, said that there was nothing so bad about the initiation that would prevent them from volunteering to go through it again if necessary.

"I didn't see anyone cry and that food they made us eat was canned baby food. Spinach. It didn't look like a big steak or anything but there was nothing wrong with it as far as eating it goes," said Rainwater when questioned by reporters. Some of the so-called atrocities were the shower room of high school gymnasium according to the parent, "they" were committed to



TRAGEDY SCENE... Herald Reporter Marv Hall examines hole burned in floor directly beneath bed in which a 37-year-old housewife burned to death at 2 a.m. Monday morning.

Housewife, 37, Dies In Pre-Dawn Fire

Funeral services were pending today for a 37-year-old housewife who burned to death in an early morning fire Monday.

The victim was Mrs. Alice Kincaid of 20114 Florence Dr., who died in a fire presumably started by a lighted cigarette. She apparently died of suffocation. Slow smoldering embers burned their way completely through the floor, leaving a hole the size and shape of the bed.

Ex-Con Nabbed In Gun Battle On Ridge Route

An ex-convict who gave his address as 1027 W. 225th St., is in a Van Nuys jail today after he was captured in a running machine gun battle with California Highway Patrol Officers on the Ridge Route.

Booked on a suspicion of grand theft auto charge is 21-year-old Marlin Falls who is on probation after serving an 18-month sentence in a Washington prison for stealing an auto.

Van Nuys police will search the possessions of Falls today in an effort to find clothing which was missing from a car stolen in Torrance, thus linking Falls in Torrance, thus linking Falls with the theft.

The car, owned by Irwin Kaseno, 1414 Hickory Ave., was stolen from in front of his home on May 18 and was recovered in Van Nuys later that day, parked adjacent to the place from which a second car had been stolen, police said.

Later on the second car, being driven by Falls, sideswiped a truck on the Ridge Route and nearly overturned. Another motorist saw Falls jump from the car and run into the brush. The highway patrol was called, and when they arrived, Falls reportedly pulled a gun and threatened to shoot them from his hiding place in the brush

"Monday's Wash Day"

For the person who was lucky enough to be the first to answer this ad:

BENDIX automatic washer. Good working order. Only \$16. Must call by Friday, 50942 S. Main, Torrance.

said Mrs. Agnes Holmes, 20942 S. Main: "I sold my washer on the first call. So many prospects came that I had to put a sign over the door: 'Washer Sold.' Must have had a million calls."

Do you have a washing machine you no longer want? Let it be known—put it in the Torrance Herald Classified. Just call...

The Result Number FAirfax 8-4000

For an experienced ad writer. Ask about our Special 4-Time Plan.

No Hitch In Phone Switch

All Call, No Stall, Dial Trial Makes Pyle Smile

The Big Switch went off without a hitch.

At one minute after midnight on Sunday, nearly 15,000 Torrance and Lomita telephones were converted to dial operation by (a) pulling the heat coils in the old telephone office on Sartori Ave. (b) cutting the temporary cables linking the old with the new office on Cravens Ave., and (c) removing the prearranged blocking devices from the new unit of crossbar dial equipment.

This whole complicated procedure took a scant two minutes and ten seconds.

Pulling the heat coils killed the old telephone system; cutting the temporary cables disconnected the old office from the new; and removing the blocks permitted the calls to be handled automatically in the new office.

The entire ceremony was carried off very unceremoniously, with only a few operators and a handful of company officials witnessing the cutover, which began at 12:01 and ended at 12:03:10.

As soon as the cutover was made, the dials in the office began clicking madly, indicating that many local residents had had their receivers off the hooks, listening for indications that the switch was taking place. When the cutover was completed, the clicking died down as satisfied citizens trundled off to bed, apparently secure in the knowledge that the operator system was gone forever.

Telephone company officials said that 34,642 calls were placed in Torrance Sunday and 48,948 on Monday, compared to an average of 25,000 per day previously; and 32,908 calls were made in Lomita Sunday and 35,649 on Monday compared to an

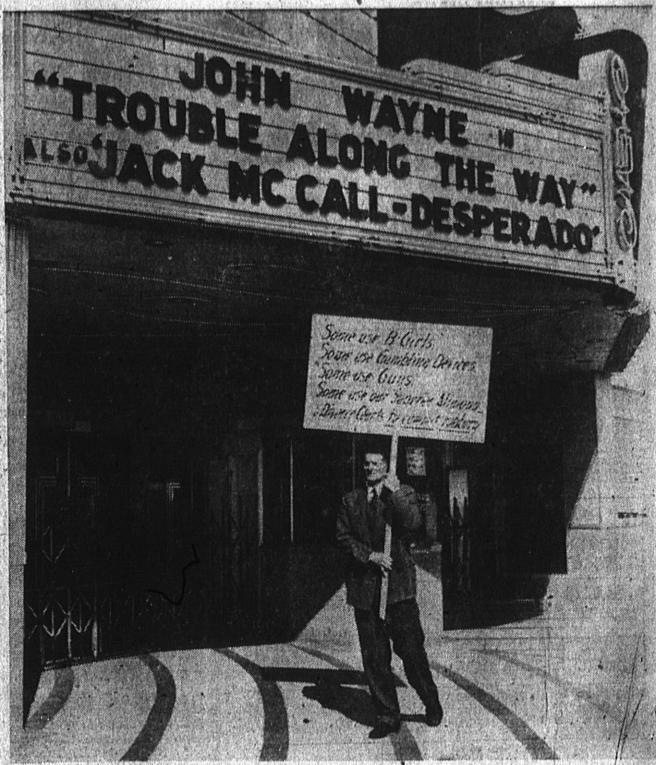
(Continued on Page 3)

Suspect Illegal Operation In Death of Woman

The County Coroner's office was investigating today the possibility of an illegal operation in the death of Lula Coble, 24, a resident of San Diego who had been staying with a friend in Torrance for a few days prior to her death last week in Harbor General Hospital.

Sheriff's officers are attempting to validate the girl's claim that the illegal operation was self-administered, but are not overlooking the possibility that someone else might have performed the operation.

Mrs. Coble, who was reported separated from her husband in January, was admitted to the hospital on May 20 and died on May 28th. Her body has been shipped to Branson, Missouri, by Stone and Myers mortuary for funeral services and interment. Born in Cedar Creek, Missouri, Mrs. Coble is survived by her mother, Mrs. Allie Coble, and a sister and brother, all of Klamath Falls, Oregon; a brother in Branson, and a sister in Oklahoma City.



COURT PICKETEER... Weaver H. Jones shows how he picketed a Los Angeles Court where the troubled actor John Wayne is being sued by his wife for \$8800 a month temporary alimony. In picture above Jones demonstrates his picketing technique beneath the marquee of the Stadium Theater in Torrance which is currently advertising John Wayne in "Trouble Along the Way."

Picketeer Blasts Alimony Racket

Weaver H. Jones, one-time candidate for Congress, went on another campaign this week, this time against what he terms the "Alimony and Divorce Court Shakedown and Robbery Racket."

Jones, a plasterer by trade, picketed a Los Angeles court where actor John Wayne is being sued for nearly \$10,000 a month temporary alimony by his second wife. Aroused by Wayne's estranged wife's demands, Jones claims that "Superior Courts are becoming more and more the tools and conspirators of deserters, double-crossing, racketeering, hypocritical, dishonest, and un-Godly wives."

The local plasterer, who lives at 1318 W. 221st St., says: "Many modern women do not marry a man with the intention of engaging in holy matrimony, but are out to hook a man with a marriage contract and then rob him in Superior Alimony and Divorce Courts with the help of some two-legged hyena and featherless buzzard lawyer-racketeers."

Jones' two-sided placard read: "The Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate. Who can find a virtuous woman? Her value is far above rubies." The other side read: "Some Use B.C. Pills. Some Use Curly Dens. Some Use Curly. Some Use our Superior Alimony and Divorce Courts to commit robbery."

The other side of the placard read: "The Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate. Who can find a virtuous woman? Her value is far above rubies." The other side read: "Some Use B.C. Pills. Some Use Curly Dens. Some Use Curly. Some Use our Superior Alimony and Divorce Courts to commit robbery."

The city's all time building evaluation record seemed assured of being broken by this year's total, the city building department revealed Monday. All that is needed is an average evaluation of \$1,000,000 per month for the rest of 1953 to smash the 1952 record of \$18,510,000. Total for the first five months of 1953 is already \$18,244,756, with building additions to Union Carbide & Chemical Co., and to General Petroleum Corp., due this month.

The two industrial additions are expected to total about \$1,300,000. Union Carbide is expected to add eight buildings aggregating about \$900,000, and the General Petroleum refinery has slated a \$400,000 addition.

Five tracts, totalling 216 new homes, accounted for most of the May evaluation, which reached \$2,184,685, compared to \$2,484,362 for May, 1952, and \$8,972,399 for the first five months of 1952.

All of these new homes are in the north section except for one 88 home subdivision south of Sepulveda Blvd. and west of Hawthorne Ave.

Board Tables Teachers' Pay Hikes for Study

The suggestion that teachers' salary minimums be raised from \$2650 annually to \$3800 to put Torrance in a more favorable bargaining position for new teachers was tabled by the Board of Education here Tuesday evening to be brought up again at the next meeting.

Objection to granting the salary hike Tuesday was voiced by Judge John A. Shidler, president of the board, who said he wanted to study the proposal further before approving a wage boost which would go to every teacher in the system.

The proposal was given to the board by Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of school, who said he specifically refrained from making a recommendation one way or the other because he wanted the board to thrash out any salary policies which would effect the schools for years to come.

Principals' Pay
Coupled with the proposal was a recommendation that the board consider returning principals and vice-principals to their proper relationship in the salary scale.

Superintendent Hull explained that principals should be receiving one and one-half times the teaching salary which they could demand and that vice-principals should receive one and one-quarter of their base salary. Such a policy was adopted here when the school district was organized, but flat salary raises have tended to diminish the percentage spread, he explained.

The whole problem of salary adjustments, both for certificated (teachers) and classified (custodians, bus drivers, etc.) personnel is slated for an airing at the next board meeting, June 16.

Lighting Overhaul
In other action of the board, employment of an electrical engineering firm to survey a re-vamping of the High School lighting system was approved.

Business Manager Ernest W. Ingram told the board that the school didn't even have an electrical blueprint of the buildings. He explained that the plans could not be found when the school district left the Los Angeles City Schools.

Classrooms will be equipped with modern fluorescent lighting during the summer vacation period. Money for the rehabilitation of the lighting system was voted in a bond issue several years ago, but the actual work has been delayed because of the critical supply of copper.

Weather
Mostly clear today with patches of early morning low clouds. Little change in temperature. High yesterday in Torrance was 72 degrees. Low was 46.



CONRAD VALENZONA JR. Injuries Prove Fatal

Funeral Mass Said for Boy Thrown by Horse

A funeral Mass was said yesterday at St. Peter and Paul church in Wilmington for young Conrad Valenzona Jr., 11, who died Sunday at Harbor General Hospital from injuries received when he was thrown from his horse.

Sheriff's deputies said the boy was riding his horse, racing another boy on a bicycle, when the horse shied and threw him against a power pole. He was taken to the Harbor hospital where he succumbed to a basal skull fracture early Sunday morning.

The Rev. Robert Gara, of Nativity Church, said a rosary for the child Tuesday, and the Rev. Michael Hunt said the funeral Mass.

The boy was a student at Carson St. elementary school, and lived at 207 W. 223rd St. Born in New York, he came here with his family six years ago. Parents of the deceased boy are Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Valenzona, 207 W. 223rd St., and he is also survived by three sisters, Georgiana, Shirley Ann, and Lois Marie; his grandfather, Louis Iacona of the same address; two uncles, Frank and Jerome Iacona, who live in the East, and an uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Zilo, 626 1/2 W. 220th St.